



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do Justice • Love Kindness • Walk Humbly

A Good Friday Service of Worship

April 10, 2020

PRELUDES

Selections from *A Suite of Passion Hymn Settings*

Wilbur Held

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now – Ah, Holy Jesus – In the Cross of Christ I Glory – Go to Dark Gethsemane – O Darkest Woe

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GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Cherrie Barton Henry

A CALL TO CONFESSION

Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

I am here.

Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

I am here.

Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?

I am here.

People of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

I am here.

Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

I am here.

The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors for us much of our own weakness and sin. We all come here as those who have missed the mark and who are alienated from God and our neighbor, near and far. Let us join together in the prayer of confession. **Yes, God, it is true. We are not worthy of your love. We promise to be faithful, but we fall away; we forsake you; we betray you; we flee from you; we betray you; we deny you; we watch from afar; we do not tell anyone that your reign is at hand. We are afraid. Change us, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PASSION STORY

John 18: 1-38

Cherrie Barton Henry

Take some time to ponder where are you in this story today.

How could you be Peter, who one moment defends Christ and the next denies him?

How could you be one of the other disciples stepping back and falling away when the authorities show up?

What about the Caiaphas slave Malchus, whose ear gets cut off?

Could you be the woman guarding the gate wondering who Jesus' disciples are?

What about Caiaphas and Annas trying to figure out how to get someone else to do your dirty work for you so that you can still claim to be technically pure?

Have you ever had the power of Pilate to decide who is king?

Do you wonder about truth?

Spend some time in these next moments pondering these things while Monica plays.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Two selections from *Eleven Chorale Preludes*, op. 122

Johannes Brahms

Herzlich tut mich verlangen (My Heart is Ever Yearning) – *Herzliebster Jesu* (Ah, Holy Jesus)

THE PASSION STORY

John 18: 39-19:42
Alex Stayer-Brewington

Jesus isn't just arrested and executed; he is interrogated, screamed at, stripped, and beaten. In addition to ending his ministry, the people in control are working to make Jesus feel ashamed. Reflect on a time when others have tried to make you feel shame. Was there anyone present who said something to help you? If so, what did they say or do? If you could go back in time, what would you say to the person or the people who were trying to humiliate you? What would you say to yourself?

Consider the image of Jesus' mother watching her son on the cross. She is accompanied by her sister, her friend, and a friend of Jesus. What do you think her friends said to her in these moments? What would you have said to her if you had been beside her?

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Chorale Prelude on *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig* (O Spotless Lamb of God; from the *Orgelbüchlein*)

J. S. Bach

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Chris Tuttle

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

